



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Estuaries Day

WHEREAS, Save the Bay-Narragansett Bay, Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program are integral to the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, the entirety of the Ocean State, its population, and economy lies within an estuary region; and

WHEREAS, our beaches are a major income source of our economy, drawing over 16 million visitors every year and supporting a tourism industry that generates \$6.8 billion annually and maintains over 55,000 local jobs; and

WHEREAS, the well being of our fisheries is vital to our state's revenue, as the commercial seafood industry contributed \$347 million while recreational fishing added another \$56 million in 2009 alone; and


WHEREAS, over seventeen percent of Rhode Island's total area is water, and this is the highest proportion of water of any state in the Union; and


WHEREAS, protecting and restoring our estuaries is vital to our local and national economy because they sustain the fisheries that feed America, ensure outdoor recreational opportunities for current and future generations, reduce the costly impacts of natural hazards, and support local jobs which cannot be exported; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim September 29, 2012 as Estuaries Day in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this day.



Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 4th day of September, 2012


Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor


A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State